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ROWSE, E.

B O S T O N U N I V E R S I T Y

Graduate School

Thesis

FATHERS' OCCUPATION as a FACTOR
in ELIMINATION of
HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

Submitted by

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(Litt.B. Boston University 1903)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Causes of the Elimination of Students in Public
Secondary Schools of New York City" Dr. J.K. Van Denberg

"The Vocational Interests, Study Habits, and Amusements
of the Pupils in Certain High Schools in Iowa." Irving King
The School Review March, 1914.

This study is entirely statistical and is based on original data of pupils of the Boston High School of Commerce. In every case the comparisons are by fathers' occupations.

Tables are presented and interpretations attempted as follows:-

Comparison of entering population and city population of Boston and several other cities.

Average age at leaving school.

Distribution of elimination ages.

Percent remaining less than one year.

A study of scholarship and deportment of those eliminated.

Distribution of total number entered as to Elimination, Graduation, Transferred, and Still in School.

From a study of the tables mentioned above and from a summary of these tables I wish to discover whether the occupation of the father has anything to do with the age at which a boy leaves school.

Many surprising statements have been made with regard to the effect of father's occupation on the length of the child's school life. It has been generally accepted as a fact that the children of lower paid parents leave school at an early age. But much of this has been merely conjecture and made without statistical basis or proof.

In the studies of High School elimination made by Dr. J. H. Van Denberg and Mr. Irving King, the relation of elimination to father's occupation was considered, but only as one of the minor phases of the subject.

The object of this study is to inquire more in detail into that relation in the case of pupils eliminated from the Boston High School of Commerce.

As a basis for such a study, the official records of 1107 pupils eliminated, 470 pupils graduated, 178 pupils transferred to other high schools or moved from the city, and 774 pupils still in school were used. This makes a total of 2529 cases examined and included all the pupils who had entered the High School of Commerce from its foundation in 1906 to July 1, 1914, with the exception of those for whom the records were incomplete so that they could not be classified by father's occupation. However, so small a percentage were omitted for this cause that the effect on the final result would be slight.



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<https://archive.org/details/fathersoccupatio00rows>

Following is the official record card from which the data was obtained. It would have been very interesting and valuable to have followed up these incomplete records and also to have ascertained in each case the exact cause for leaving school by personal interview. But as many left as much as eight years ago and as there is little attempt made to keep changes of addresses of non-graduates, this was impossible.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMARY RECORD.

First Name

Initial

Last Name

Date of Birth

Age at Entrance

Parent or Guardian

Home Address

Business Address

Occupation

Entered
From
Discharged
Diploma Awarded

19

YEAR	PAGE	YEAR	PAGE	YEAR	PAGE	YEAR	PAGE	YEAR	PAGE	TOTAL DIPLOMA POINTS	
Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	June	Year Points	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	June	Year Points

Present

Absent

Tardy

Conduct

Physical Training

Military Drill

Choral Practice

Hygiene

English

History

Civil Government

Economics

Latin

Greek

French

German

Spanish

Mathematics

Introductory Science

Biology

Physics

Chemistry

Physiology

Book-keeping

Phonography

Typewriting

Commercial Geography

Mercantile Law

Civil Service



At first an attempt was made to classify the occupations according to the method of the United States census, but there were so many groups and consequently so few falling under many of the groups, as for the purpose of this study, there seemed to be little connection between the classes as there grouped, it seemed advisable to adopt a different method of classification.

Some uncertainty arose in the classifying on account of the confusion of terms, for example:- "clerks" and "salesmen". At first an attempt was made to keep these two classes separate, but in many cases it was easy to see from the business address given that these terms had been used very carelessly. Since these two occupations hold about the same place both economically and socially, it seemed wise to combine them. Again in many cases it was not evident whether the father in question was a proprietor or an employee, as such entries as "butcher" and "manufacturer" were found when other data on the card and personal knowledge of the case indicated that employee was meant. Also such entries as "metal dealer" were found when it seemed quite probable that "junk collector" would have fitted the case better. Doubtful cases were discarded, but the percentage of such cases was so small as to have very little effect on the final result.

It seems that these difficulties are not confined to this study as Dr. Van Denberg mentions some of the same kind in his "Causes of the Elimination of Students in Public Secondary Schools of New York City," also in the United States Census Report of 1910 similar difficulty is found.

In many of the results which follow, the number of cases examined was so small as to make the results of little value. These results are tabulated with the rest, however, but their weight must be discounted in making comparisons.

Table 1

Comparative table showing distribution of High School entering population. Classified by father's occupation.

	Percent in Boston High School of Commerce	Percent in Iowa City Uttumwa & Dubuque (a)	Percent in New York City (b)
<u>Manual Workers</u>	<u>57.8</u>	<u>46.0</u>	<u>37.3</u>
Agriculture	1.2	15.1	
Artisan	36.7	16.6	22.4
Transportation	11.3	7.5	5.5
Personal	1.9	1.8	4.9
Unskilled	6.7	5.1	4.4
<u>Business and Professional</u>			
	31.7	50.0	55.3
Owners	11.0	26.7	27.5
Executive	4.2		
Clerks, Salesmen, B.K.	14.6	12.2	19.1
Professional	1.9	11.1	8.7
Federal & City	10.5	4.0	7.4
Police, Firemen, P.O.	5.8		
Executive & Clerical	2.5		
Laborer	2.2		
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

(a) Mr. Irving King's study of elimination of 1112
highschool pupils in cities named

(b) Dr. J. K. Van Denberg's study of elimination of
1000high school pupils in New York.

Table I is presented to show the kind of homes from which the Boston High School of Commerce draws as compared with the High Schools of Iowa City, Ottumwa and Dubuque and with the High School of New York City.

It must be remembered that most of the pupils selected for the two other studies are pupils of the general High School, while this study is concerned entirely with pupils of a vocational school. The requirements for admission, however, are the same in all these studies, namely, graduation from grammar school. A similar study made in some other high school, also in a Vocational School of a different vocational interest, as for instance Mechanic Arts High School of Boston, would furnish very very valuable data for comparison to see how much of this is peculiar to a Commercial High School.

Also I am fully aware that the income of the family is not alone dependent on the father, but may be increased by the earnings of older brothers or sisters. Also that the needed income is dependent on the number of children to be supported. But as has been seen from the record card, no such data is given.

For the purpose of comparing results obtained by Mr. King and Dr. VanDenberg with the present study (see Table I), it is necessary to combine several groups as recorded in their studies, but the possibility of such combinations is perfectly evident from their original classification.

The figures in the table agree quite closely for the three western cities and New York. Both of these, however, show wide disagreement with the figures for the Boston High School of Commerce in five cases. The percent is materially larger in Boston under the head of artisans, transportation employees and federal and city employees and is much smaller in Boston in the cases of owners and professional men. These differences may best be understood by considering them in connection with Table II. This is presented in order that we may compare the distribution of the school population with the city population in Boston and in New York.

Table II

Comparison of city population and school population
in Boston and New York. Classified by fathers' occupations

	Boston High School of Commerce		New York(a)	
	Percent of Population 1910 City of Boston	Percent of total en- tering Population	Percent of pop- ulation City of N. Y.	Percent of Total en- tering Population
Manual workers	63.4	57.8	43.2	37.1
Agriculture	1.0	1.2		
Artisans	38.0	36.7	18.9	22.3
Transportation	15.4	11.3	6.6	5.5
Personal	4.6	1.9	7.7	4.9
Unskilled	4.4	6.7	10.0	4.4
Business & Professional				
Owners	33.7	31.7	53.2	55.4
Executives	8.3	11.0	28.1	27.5
Clerks, Salesmen, & B. K.	1.7	4.2		
Professional	18.0	14.6	19.1	19.1
Federal & City	5.7	1.9	6.	8.8
Police, Firemen & P.O).	2.9	10.5	3.6	7.4
Executive & Clerical	1.8	5.8		
Laborers	0.5	2.5		
	0.7	2.2		
	1000	100.	100.	100.

(a) Dr. J. K. VanDenburg.

Several facts may be observed which may help to explain the difference noted.

(1) In the city population the percentage of artisans and of persons engaged in transportation is much larger in Boston than in New York. The school population, however, under these heads are approximately the same as the city population as is also the case in New York.

(2) Not only do a small number of professional men send their boys to the High School of Commerce, but as will be seen later (Table VIII) a very large percentage of those who do enter are transferred to other high schools. This school does not prepare for college, and it is possible that further study would reveal the fact that professional men usually desire a college education for their sons.

(3) The percent of "owners" in the city population is small as compared with that of New York. This may be explained to a large extent by the fact that so many of Boston's business men live outside of Boston city limits. As has often been pointed out, the suburbs of Boston are the bedrooms of its business men. There has been a marked tendency in the past generation to move from the city to the less densely populated suburbs. This naturally takes those whose financial standing will admit of an increased living expense, and it is to be expected that owners would be able to lead in this change. Newton, Brookline and Milton have long been known as the homes of Boston's leading business men. To make the classification similar

to New York, we should include greater Boston. However, the school population under this head is very high as compared with the city population.

(4) Table II shows the great preponderance of the commercial occupation over the manual workers in New York. In Boston, on the other hand, more than sixty percent of the inhabitants are manual workers. I have no doubt that if the statistics of greater Boston were collected as large a proportion would be found engaged in business as in New York. It is in general the foreigner and artisan class who have remained in the city while the business class has moved to the suburbs.

(5) In Boston the percentage of school population of unskilled fathers is one and one half times the percentage of city population. In New York, it is less than one half the city population. Of course, this study does not show whether that high percentage is maintained in other High Schools of Boston or whether the unskilled have chosen the High School of Commerce. This would make an interesting field for future study.

(6) Table II shows the same marked deficiency in the school population in the transportation and personal service groups in both the Boston and New York studies. This doubtless due in part to the fact that so many young men are employed in these occupations. Most of the gatemen on the elevated trains are young men as are a large proportion of the conductors on the surface cars. In many cases these are unmarried men, or, at any rate, men who are too young to have children of high school age. This is even more noticeable in the case of bootblacks and bell boys.

(7) AS Table II shows, the federal and city employees have sent their children to the high school, both in New York and Boston, in far greater numbers than the percentage of the population would lead one to expect. In Boston this excess has been even much more marked than in New York, rising to three and one-half times what we should expect.

(8) Thus we see that the difference of Table I are largely differences in city population and not essential differences in school population. We see about the same kind of variations from the city population in Boston as in New York. The difference in variation is largely one of degree, not of kind.

Table III

Average age of leaving school; (a) those who did not graduate, (b) those who graduated, (c) a & b combined. Classified according to fathers' occupation.

		(a) left without grad.		(b) Graduated		(c) a& b combined	
	Number	Average age at leaving yr. mo.		Average age at graduation yr. mo.		Average age at leaving or graduation yr. mo.	
Manual Workers	558	16	223	18.2	781	16.7	
Agriculture	12	16.5	5	18.6	17	17.2	
Artisans	349	16	161	18.1	510	16.8	
Transportation	111	16	38	18.3	149	16.7	
Personal	22	16.2	6	18.1	28	16.7	
Unskilled	64	15.8	13	18.2	77	16.2	
Business & Professional	275	16.6	142	18.3	417	17.1	
Owners	94	16.7	48	18.6	142	17.3	
Executives	39	16.8	17	18.2	56	17.1	
Clerks, Salesmen, & B.K.	128	16.4	64	18.1	192	16.11	
Professional	14	16.8	13	18.1	27	17.5	
Federal & City	95	16.4	50	18.5	145	17.1	
Police, Firemen, P.O.	48	16.5	30	18.3	78	17.1	
Executive & Clerical	23	16.10	11	18.9	34	17.5	
Laborers	24	15.9	9	18.9	33	16.8	
Retired	11	15.11	1	17.8	12	16.1	
No Father	168	16.1	54	18.1	222	16.4	

Table III is a table of average ages of elimination and graduation. There are so few falling under the head of "Retired" that it seems wise to disregard this class. We notice that the children of the unskilled laborers and the city laborers are eliminated very young with those of artisans and transportation workers following very closely after. On the other hand, the children of executive and clerical, federal and city employees, professional men, and business executives remain about a year longer before elimination. Also in each case where the elimination age is high, the percentage of graduates is high.

It is interesting to note that the age of graduation of federal and city employees is high. A later table (see Table VII) will show that a large percentage of this class seem to leave school on account of scholarship. These two facts would seem to show that for some reason these pupils progress slowly with their studies.

We must consider the fact here that the poorest students take the longest to complete their course. That is, a student who fails in several subjects may, by staying in school five years, receive his diploma. But if the family is in poor financial condition he is likely to be counted among those eliminated rather than those graduated. Graduation at an early age tells only of intellectual ability, but graduation at an advanced age tells of intellectual ability also of the financial ability of the family to support the boy in school at the advanced age.

This table would seem to give statistical proof to the supposed fact that the time spent in school is directly dependent on the income of the father. Unskilled workers, transportation employees and personal service workers in general receive low wages. Artisans, however, are at present well paid. There has been a great increase in the wage schedule for artisans in the last four years.

Also this study covers a period of financial depression when even if artisans did receive good wages there was much lost time which left the annual income small. It must be noticed that in this class even if the average is low a large percentage of these pupils remain to graduate.

TABLE IV

Distribution of Elimination. Number and Percent
eliminated at specified ages.

	Total Number	No. under 14 years	Percent under 14	14 years under 15	Percent 14 under 15	15 years under 16	Percent 15 under 16	16 years under 17	Percent 16 under 17	17 under 18	Percent 17 under 18	18 years under 19	Percent 18 under 19	19 years and over	Percent 19 and over
Manual Workers	558	13	2	117	21	131	23	157	28	90	16	41	7	9	2
Agriculture	12					1	8	8	67	1	8	19	17		
Artisans	349	9	3	75	21	79	23	97	28	55	16	26	7	8	2
Transportation	111	2	2	23	21	29	26	29	26	17	15	11	10		
Personal	22			2	9	7	32	7	32	5	23	1	5		
Unskilled	64	2	3	17	27	15	23	16	25	12	19	1	2	1	2
Business and Prof.	275	6	2	32	12	56	20	68	25	64	23	36	13	13	5
Owners	94	3	3	13	14	16	17	19	20	23	25	13	14	7	7
Clerks	128	2	2	16	13	27	21	32	25	32	25	16	13	3	2
Prof.	14			2	14	4	29	2	14	2	14	3	21	1	7
Executive	39	1	3	1	3	9	27	15	38	7	18	4	10	2	5
Federal and City	95	2	2	15	16	23	24	22	23	17	16	9	9	7	7
Police & Fire-															
men & P. C.	48	2	4	4	8	12	25	12	25	11	23	4	8	3	6
Clerks & Exe-															
cutive	23			3	13	6	26	3	13	3	13	5	22	3	13
Laborers	24			8	33	5	21	7	29	3	13			1	4

Chart

Distribution of Elimination by Ages Manual Workers



— Agricultural Workers
 — Artisans
 — Transportation Employees
 — Personal Service
 — Unskilled

Chart II

Distribution of Elimination by Age Business and Professional

Percent	Under 14 yrs.	14 under 15	15	16	17	18	19	19 and over.
40								

40

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

- Owners
- Clerks, Salesmen, & Bookkeepers
- Professional
- Executives.

Chart III
 Distribution of Eliminations by ages
 Federal and City Employees

Percent	under 14 yrs	14 under 15 yrs	15	16	17	18	19	19 and over.
			15	16	17	18	19	

35

30

25

20

15

10

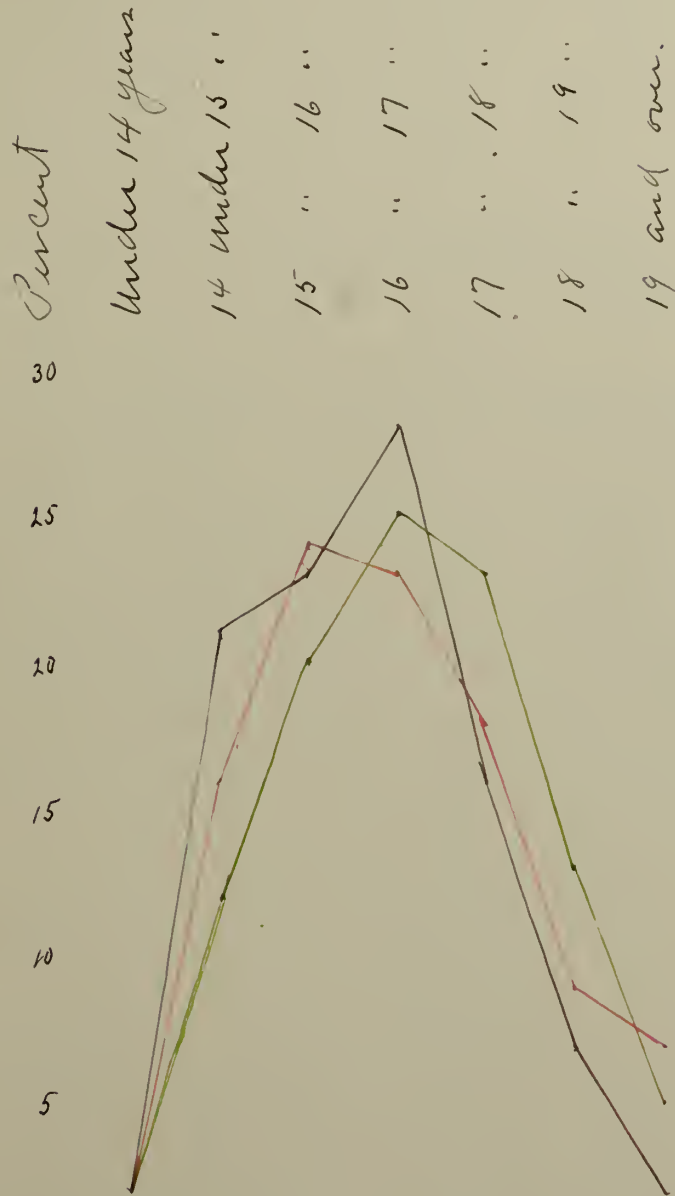
5

— Police, Firemen, + Postal Clerks.
 — Clerical + Executive
 — Labourers



Chart IV

Summary of Distribution of Elimination by Ages.



- Manual Workers
- Business + Professional
- Federal and City Employees



Table IV gives the percents from which charts I, II, III, and IV are made. These are constructed in order to show at just what ages the largest number of pupils are being eliminated. Not only is the average age of elimination very near 16 years but by far the largest number of pupils are being eliminated at that age.

It will be noticed that the highest point in the elimination of children of unskilled and city laborers is 14 years while in most other groups it is 16 years.

Chart IV, on account of the large group made by combinations of the smaller groups, flattens out the differences and shows nearly parallel graphs with manual workers leaving at an early age; the business and professional remaining much longer and the federal and city employees occupying a position between the other two.

Table V

Number and Percent eliminated before 15 years of age.

Number and Percent eliminated and graduating after
18 years of age

	----- Under 15 years of age		Over 18 yrs, old	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Manual Workers	130	17	178	23
Agriculture	0	0	5	31
Artisans	84	16	125	25
Transportation	25	17	34	23
Personal Service	2	8	5	18
Unskilled	19	25	9	12
Business & Prof	38	9	133	31
Owners	16	11	54	38
Executives	2	4	17	30
Clerks, Salesmen, B.K.	18	9	49	26
Professional	2	8	13	48
Federal & City	17	15	50	34
Policemen, Firemen, P.O.	6	8	25	32
Executive & Clerical	3	10	17	50
Laborers	8	24	8	24
Retired	2	17	1	8
No Father	39	18	15	7

Chart IV

Eliminated before 15 years of age

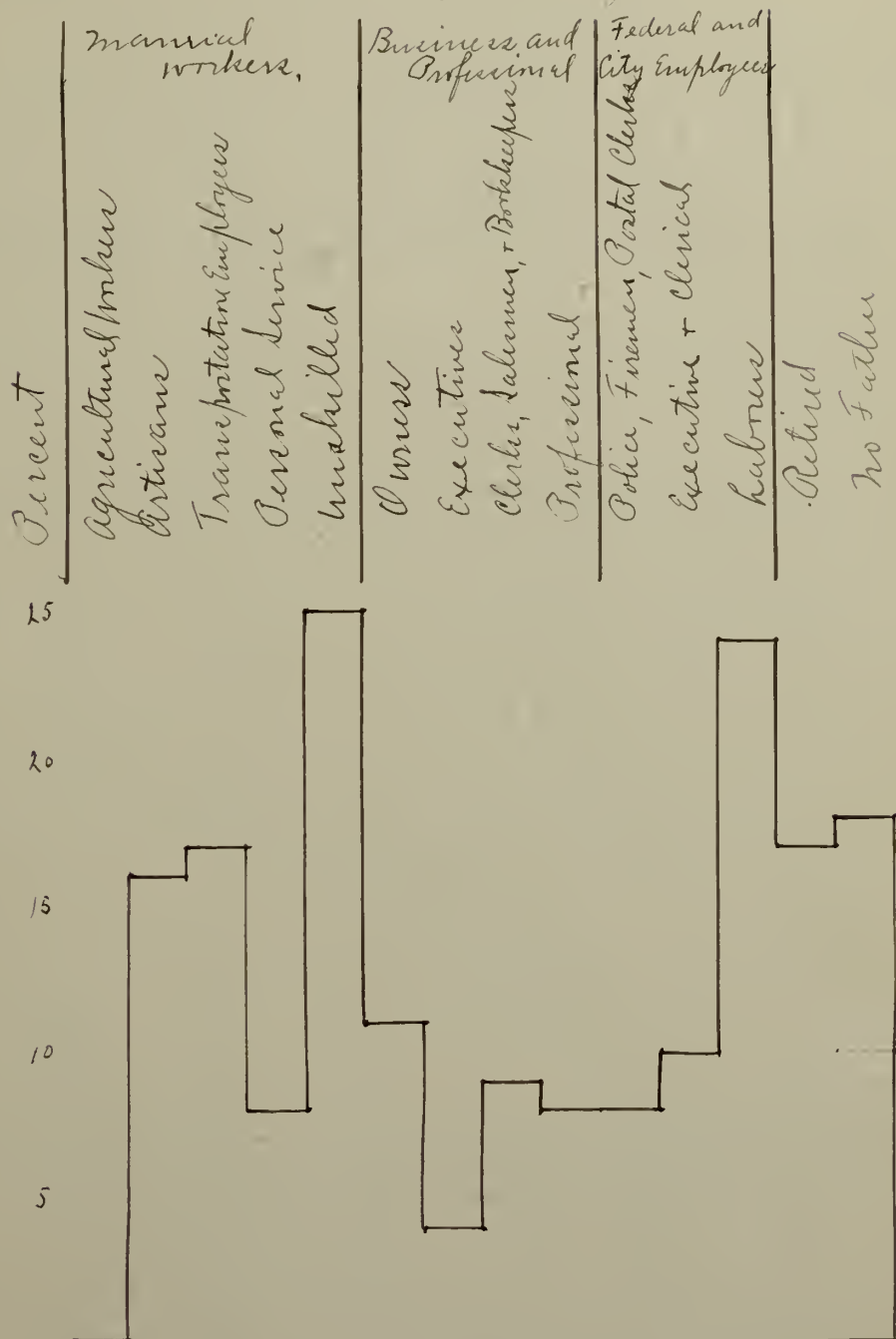


Chart II

Eliminated or Graduated after 18 years of Age

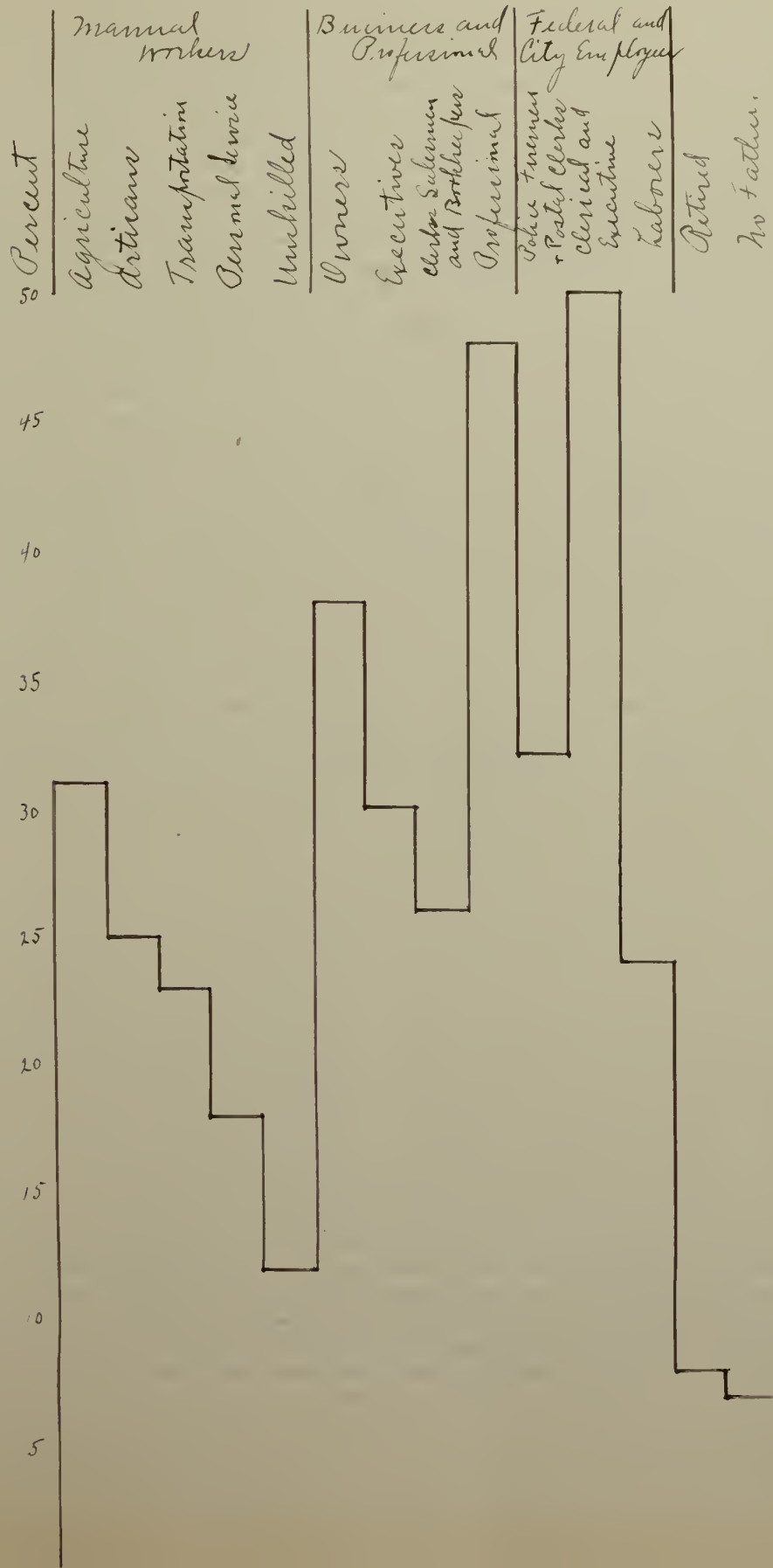


Table V and Charts V and VI again show the large number eliminated at an early age, and the small number remaining after 18 years among the children of the unskilled laborer. As there were no graduates under 15 years of age, the total number eliminated in any given occupation was used as the basis in determining the percent. On the other hand, there were many of both graduates and those eliminated who were over 18 years of age, so the combined number of graduates and eliminated was used as the basis in this one. The whole business and professional group and the rest of the federal and city employees, aside from the city laborer, show fewer pupils leaving before fifteen and more remaining after 18 years of age than do the manual workers.

Table VI

Numbers and Percent of Number Eliminated
in each occupation, who remained one year or less.

	Number	Percent
<u>Manual Workers</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>49</u>
Agriculture	4	33
Artisans	169	49
Transportation	55	50
Personal Service	10	45
Unskilled	35	55
<u>Business & Professional</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>40</u>
Owners	37	39
Executives	12	31
Clerks, Salesmen, B.K.	55	43
Professional	5	36
<u>Federal & City</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>39</u>
Police, Firemen, P.O.	17	35
Executive & Clerical	10	43
Laborers	10	42
Retired	7	64
No father	88	52

Chart VII

Pupils Eliminated who spent less than
One Year in High School.

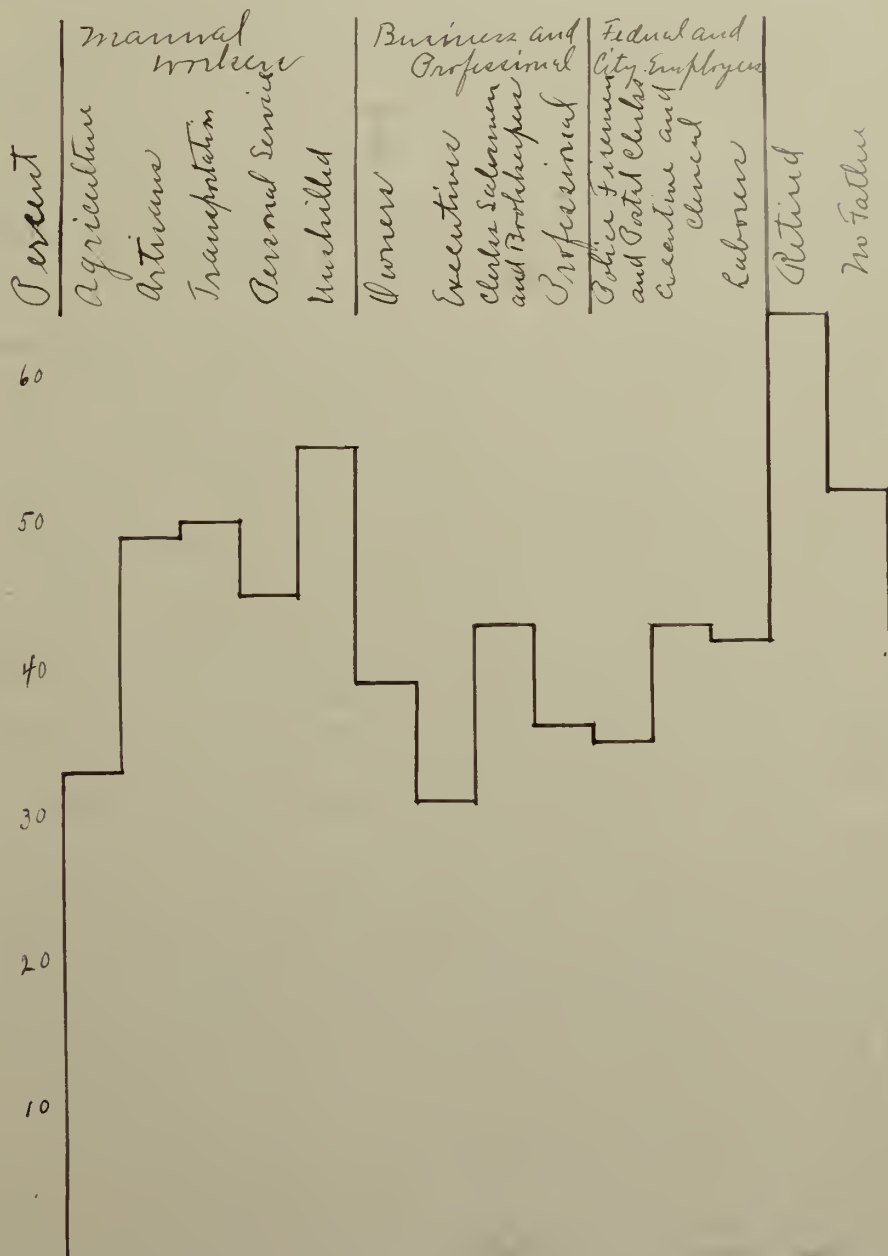


Table VI and Chart VII are introduced to show that it is not only a matter of age of leaving school but that a very large percent do not even finish the first year of high school.

The relations between the different parts of Charts V and VII are identical, with the exception of federal and city laborers. In that case a high percent leave before 15, but not a high percent leave without completing the first year of high school. That, however, is probably an accident and is not significant.

In general, we see there another emphatic expression of the facts already noted: namely, that the children of the business and professional group and the federal and city employees complete more of their high school course than do those of the manual workers.

Although not especially pertinent to this study, there is food for thought here in the fact that well over 40% of those who leave school, leave without completing the first year.

Table VII

Distribution by percents of the number of failures of
each one eliminated. Also percent having D in
Department

	Percent failing in				Percent fail- ing in depart- ment
	No Subject	One Subj.	Two Subjs.	Three' or more' Subjs.	
Manual Workers	30	21	18	32	12
Agriculture	17	25	17	42	8
Artisans	28	22	18	32	12
Transportation	32	21	17	30	10
Personal Service	32	27	9	32	27
Unskilled	38	10	20	32	10
Business & Professional	30	17	13	41	20
Owners	32	13	13	43	26
Executives	27	8	14	51	14
Clerks, Salesmen, B.K.	29	23	11	38	15
Professional	29	14	29	29	43
Federal & City	22	14	10	54	16
Police, Firemen, P.O.	21	21	13	45	17
Executive & Clerical	19	5	5	71	29
Laborers	22	13	9	56	4
Retired	46	9	9	36	9
No father	31	15	18	36	12

Chart VIII

Distribution of Number of Failures of Pupils Eliminated,

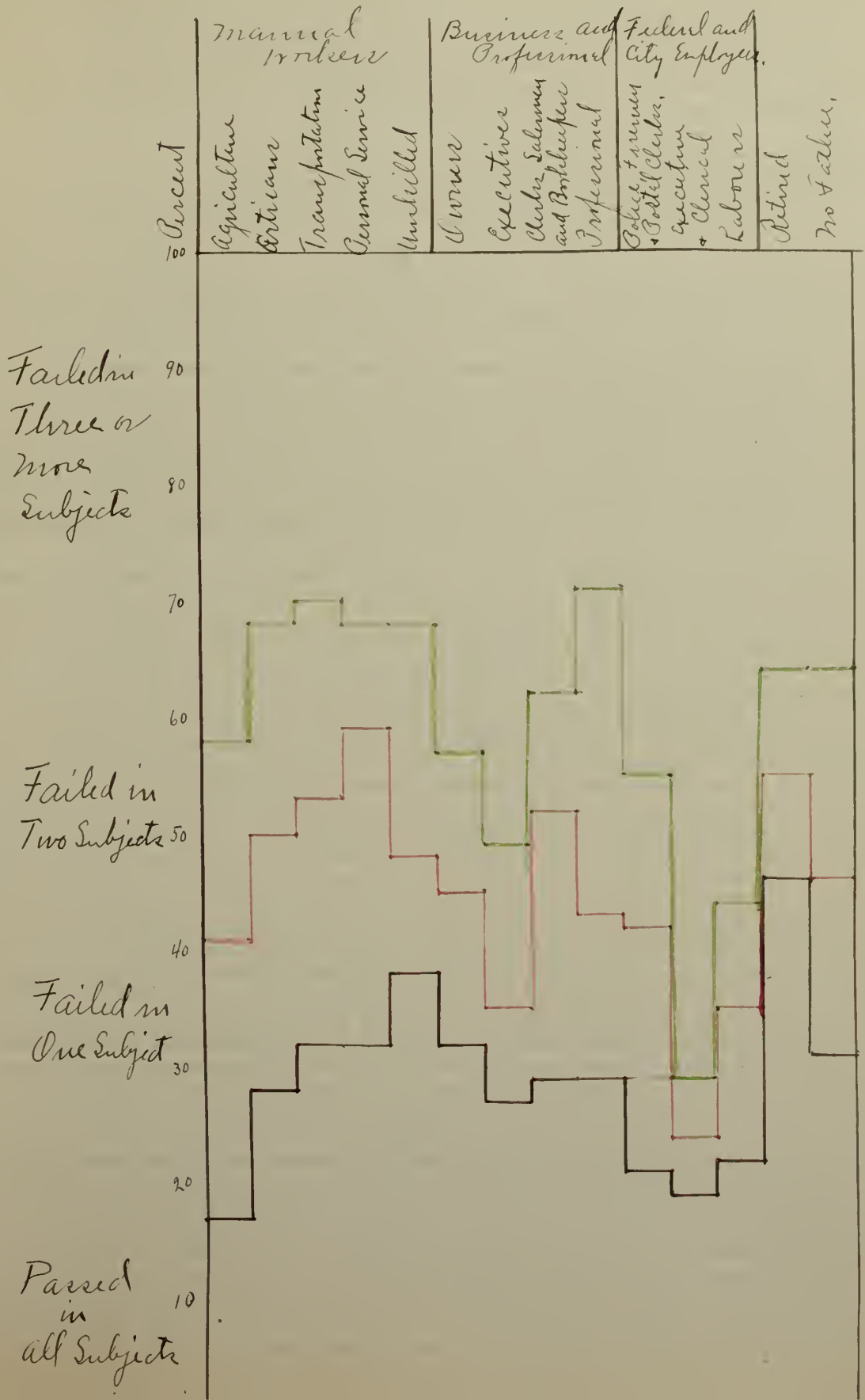


Table VII and Chart VIII give an attempt to discover to what extent the matter of scholarship and attainment in school may be considered as a factor of elimination and whether they play the same part in the children of all occupations. In collecting the data for this table, the last recorded marks were taken only when a pupil left at the end of the year. The last marks are then the year's marks in the subject. In all other cases, the last marks recorded were disregarded and the marks immediately preceding them were taken. The reason for thus disregarding the last marks is that they are often the effect of leaving, or of prospective leaving, rather than the cause. My experience has shown that when it has been decided at home that they shall leave school at a certain date, they make no further effort to perform their school duties. In this way, many pupils whose regular work is well above the passing line may accumulate a number of failures in the short period after it has been decided that they shall leave school.

I have arbitrarily assumed that failure in two or more subjects is just and sufficient cause for discouragement on the part of the pupil, or dissatisfaction on the part of the parent, so that it might be deemed unwise to allow the pupil to remain longer in school. When a pupil has failures in two subjects the possibilities of his graduating with his class are very remote. It is quite possible to make up one failure, but the boy who is behind

in two subjects is seldom able to graduate without taking an extra year. On that basis, then, a just and sufficient cause for leaving school might be found in the school attainment for those above the red line and the cause of leaving for those below the line must be found elsewhere.

Nearly two-thirds, (64%) of the sons of federal and city employees were failing in two or more subjects at leaving, while among the children of manual workers only one-half (50%): and in the business and professional class a little more than one-half (54%) were failing in two or more subjects. Scholarship thus seems to be a very important factor in elimination among the children of all occupations. But by this cause a far smaller percentage of the children of the manual workers can be explained. It is hardly to be supposed that these children would be more brilliant than other children, although we could be sure of this fact only after a careful study, by occupation, of the attainments of those who remained in school.

Of course, the element of natural ability must be reckoned with here: however, in the High School of Commerce, more than in most high schools, careful attention to business and honest effort are far more necessary than any marked brilliancy on the part of the student. The business man asks for an employee who is industrious and reliable rather than one of rare brilliancy. Of course, it is these

qualities combined with exceptional natural intellectual ability that make the "captains of industry", but the industrious and reliable will be able to hold their jobs and even advance faster than the brilliant young man who is lacking in these qualities.

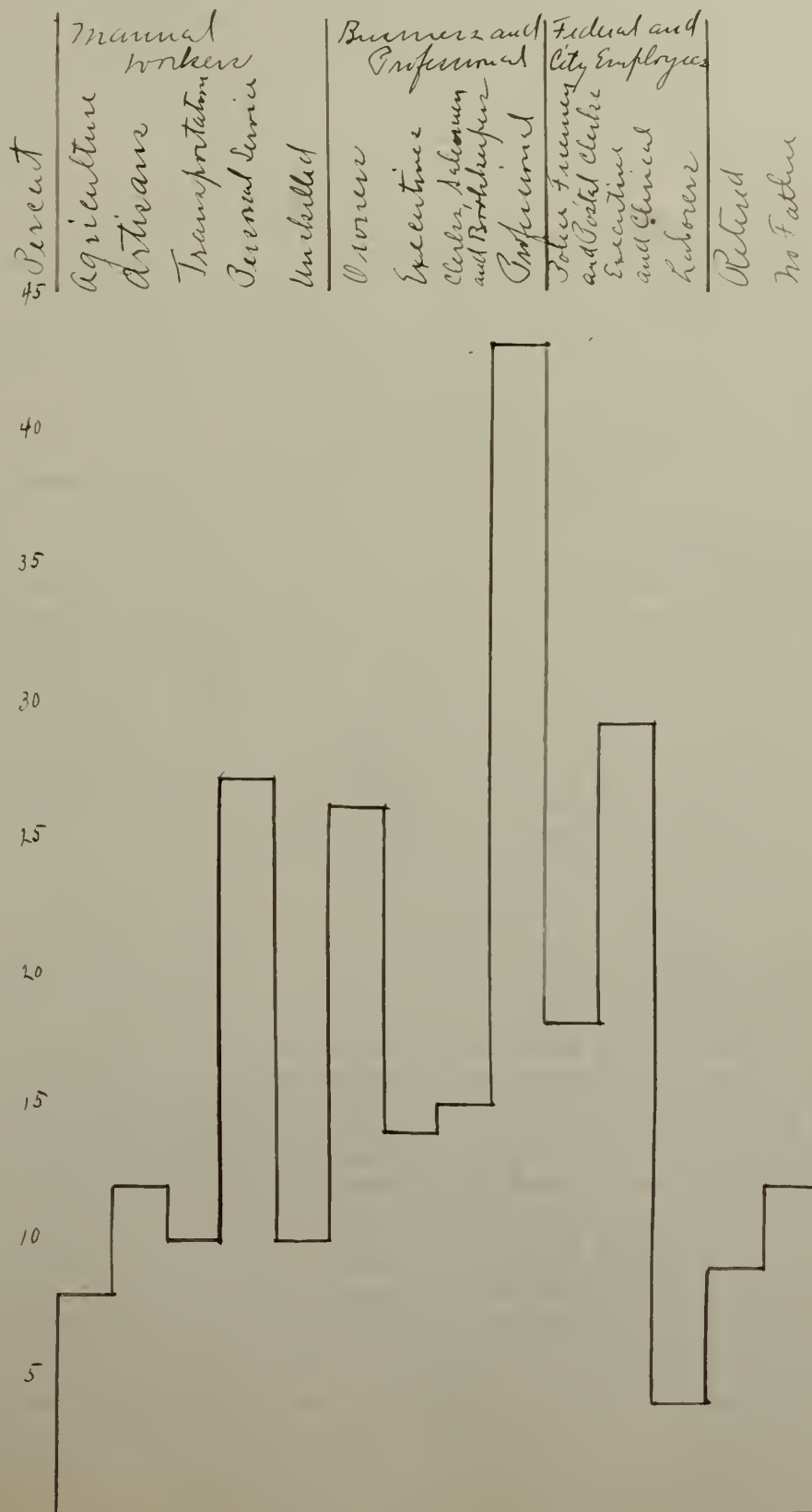
There is a general feeling among the teachers that the boy who is careful, persistent, honest and reliable in his every day duties, even though he does not possess real brilliancy, will attain a degree of success in business, and therefore, he should receive the stamp of approval of the school. Failure here is chiefly due to disinclination to work, rather than to mental inability.

It may be noted here that the children of unskilled laborers make the best use of their time as shown by the fact that there were more in that class who passed in all subjects. On the other hand, the children of Federal and city employees stand at the other end of the list.

I attribute both of these facts to the same cause, namely, that of home influence. The unskilled laborer is used to hard labor and until the last four years to long hours. The Federal and city employees have in many cases secured their positions through patronage and hold them in the same way without much real hard work. They usually drift along rather easily, not expecting advancement as the result of merit, but from political favoritism. In each case the children acquire the point of view of the father and the

Chart IX

Pupils Eliminated whose Department
mark was below the Standard.



one really works while in school while the other expects to be carried along.

In connection with this, the influence of deportment on elimination should also be considered. Often when a boy's conduct has become such that he is a disturbing element in the class, and, on account of disorderly conduct he is gaining no good from the school and is only forming habits of lawlessness, his parents are asked to withdraw him. Poor conduct makes the life of a High School of Commerce boy rather unpleasant. Chart IX shows that the conduct may have been a large factor in many cases. If there is such a thing as the social scale, it seems that in all but one case those whom we are accustomed to consider highest in the social scale show the worst record of conduct and the children of the laborers seem to make the best records. The hard and rough laborer often takes the most interest and pains in his home, while the business or professional man has so many outside interests that his family often receives little of his attention. Furthermore, the spirit of independence, if carried to extremes, becomes lawlessness.

Table VIII

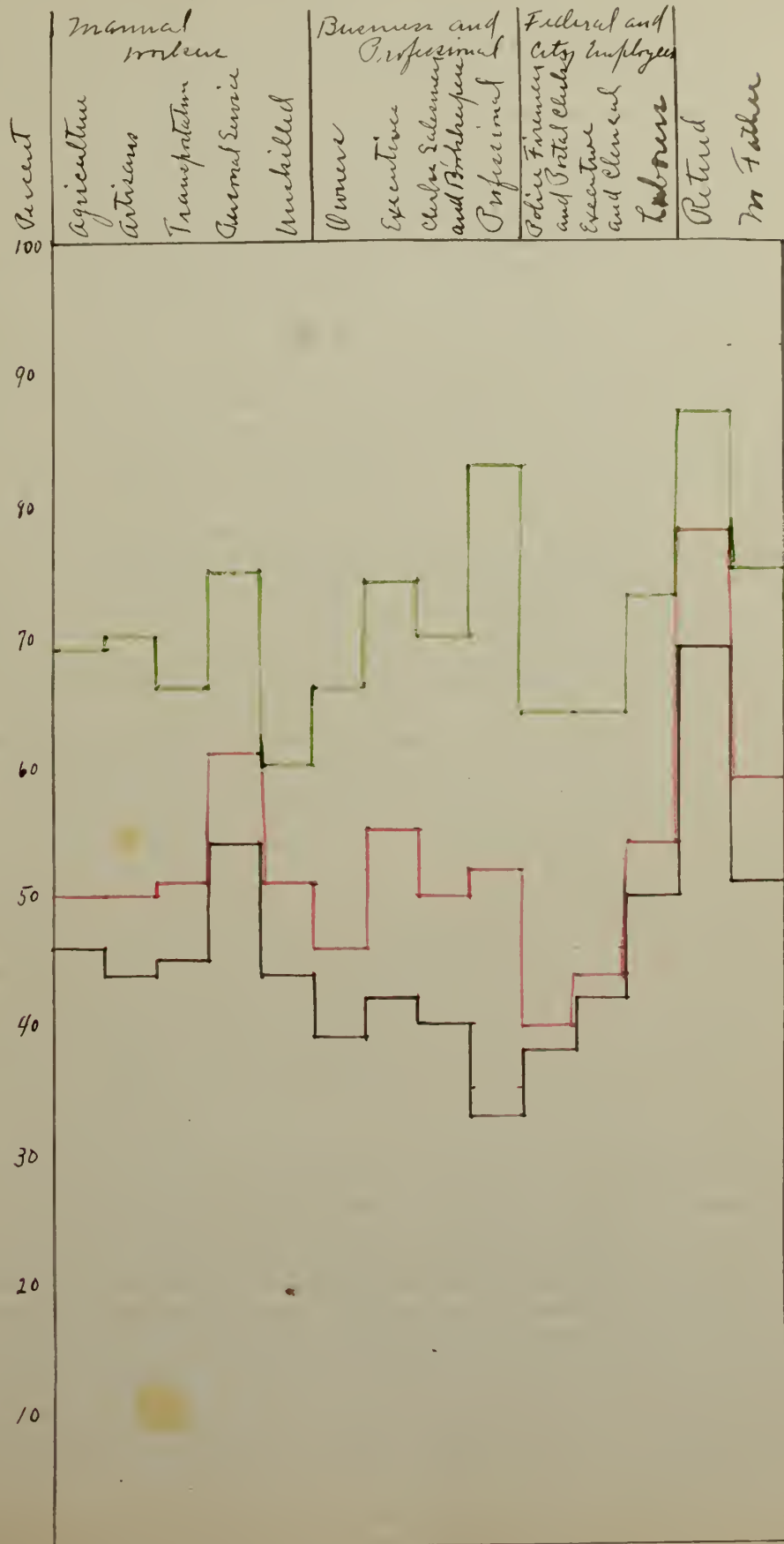
Distribution of the total number of pupils
entered since 1906, whose fathers were in
the specified occupations.

	Total Number	Percent Elimin- ated	Percent Gradu- ated	Percent Trans- ferred or moved	Percent still in school
Manual Workers	1263	44	18	6	32
Agriculture	26	46	19	4	31
Artisans	802	44	20	6	30
Transportation	247	45	15	6	34
Personal	41	54	14	7	24
Unskilled	147	44	9	7	41
Business & Professional	692	40	21	10	30
Owners	240	39	20	7	34
Executives	92	42	19	13	26
Clerks, Salesmen, & B. K.	318	40	20	10	30
Professional	42	33	31	19	17
Federal & City	230	41	22	2	35
Police, Firemen, P.O.	127	38	24	2	37
Executive & Clerical	55	42	20	2	37
Laborers	48	50	19	4	27
Retired	16	69	9	~~13~~ ⁹	~~13~~ ⁹
No Father	328	51	16	8	25



Chart X

Distribution of all Pupils entered as to
Eliminated, Transferred, Graduated, and Still in School.



Still in
School.

Graduated

Transferred

Eliminated



Table VIII and Chart X show the distribution of the entering population as regards graduation, elimination, transfer and number still in school. The present make-up of the school population shows an abnormally larger number of sons of unskilled workers, and federal and city employees, while the number of sons of personal workers, executive and professional men is very small. As pointed out above, the school has never been popular with the professional men, but at present it seems to appeal to them much less than heretofore as a place to fit their sons for their life work.

The chart showing the percent transferred or moved from the city is rather interesting. We find stability among the manual workers and the federal and city employees, while the vacillation comes from the clerks and salesmen, executive and professional men. Although it does not appear on the chart, it was very noticeable from the records that a vast majority of these changes in the group of executives came from removal from the city, while in the professional group it was on account of transfer to another high school in the city.

As has been noted before, the manual workers show an excess of elimination and a small proportion of graduates, while the business and professional groups show the condition just reversed. In the case of the sons of laborers it is decidedly noticeable that a very much smaller percent graduate than in the other groups of the manual

workers. The professional group holds the extreme position in three of the four points noted in the charts. The present percent in school of sons of men who have retired is smaller than the percent of professional men, but there are so few in the retired group that it may be disregarded. With that exception, the professional group holds the highest position in the percent graduated and transferred and the lowest in the percent eliminated and now in school.

Table IX

S U M M A R Y O F R A N K S

	Comparison with Population	Age at leaving	leaving under 15 years	Remaining after 18 "	" less than one year	Scholarship	Department	graduation	Eliminated	Total Rank (average)	Rank of average	number of times among first three	" " " last three
<u>Manual Workers</u>													
<u>Agriculture</u>	7	4	1	5	2	11	2	4	8	4.9	3	3	0
Artisans	8	8	7	8	9	5	5	3	6	6.6	7	1	0
Transportation	10	8	8	10	10	3	4	6	7	7.3	9	1	1
Personal Service	11	6	3	11	8	1	10	7	11	7.6	10	2	4
Unskilled	5	11	11	12	12	6	4	8	6	8.3	11	0	5
<u>Business & Prof.</u>													
Owners	6	3	6	3	5	8	9	3	3	5.1	4	3	0
Executives	4	2	2	6	1	12	6	4	5	4.7	2	3	1
Clerks, Salesmen & B.K.	9	5	4	7	7	4	7	3	4	5.6	6	1	0
Professional	12	2	3	2	4	9	12	1	1	5.1	4	5	2
<u>Federal & City Em- ployees</u>													
Police, Firemen, & P. O.	3	4	3	4	3	10	8	2	2	4.3	1	5	0
Clerical & Ex- ecutives	1	1	5	1	7	13	11	3	5	5.2	5	4	2
Laborers	2	10	10	9	6	12	1	4	9	7.0	8	2	3
Retired		9	8	13	13	2	3	8	12	8.5	12	2	5
No Father		7	9	14	11	7	5	5	10	8.5	12	0	4

As a summary, I have attempted to show the relative positions of the various groups by ranking them on the basis of each of the above studies which seemed to bear any distinct relation to elimination. The number now in school and the number transferred, also the average age at graduation were omitted from this table as having no significance in this connection.

Including in this table the comparison with the population gives the professional class a lower position in the list, and the federal and city employees a higher position than they would have if this item were omitted. It would seem that in fairness to the professional group this item should be omitted, as Dr. Van Denburg showed that the percentage of children of professional men in the general high school is high and therefore this small percentage would not seem to be a matter of elimination, but a matter of choice of another high school. In the case of the federal and city employees, however, his study also shows a high percentage in the general school which indicates that persons engaged in these occupations usually appreciate the opportunities offered by the high school and make use of them to a larger extent than any of the other groups. Fairness to them demands that the comparison with the city population should be included.

In preparing this table (Table IX) I have in each of the foregoing tables assigned rank one, to the group

making the best record in that particular study; rank two, to the group making the next best record, etc. In some cases the best record is the highest percent; e.g. percent remaining till after 18, or percent graduating. In other cases, the best record is shown by the smallest percent; e.g. eliminated under 15 years, percent remaining less than one year, percent eliminated. These ranks were then totalled and averaged and in turn these average ranks were assigned ranks in order. In this final ranking, as a summary of the studies set forth in this paper, the group consisting of police, firemen and postal clerks hold the most advantageous position, executive, second; agricultural workers, third; owners and professional men, fourth, etc. with personal service, unskilled laborer, retired and no father coming in that order at the end of the list. The police, firemen and postal clerks group, and the professional group appear among the first three in the list five times, while the unskilled laborer and retired appear among the last three in the list five times. The unskilled laborer never ranks better than fourth and only once are they found in that place. The police, firemen and postal clerks, on the other hand, are ranked beyond the eighth place only once. With the two exceptions of city laborer and agricultural workers, the entire groups of business and professional men and federal and city employees rank above the manual workers. Of course, the city laborers are manual workers, and the agricultural workers were so few in number as to be disregarded.

When this study was commenced it was with the full conviction that the great cause of elimination was the disinclination on the part of the pupil to study well, as may be seen from the chart of scholarship, that is a very potent factor. But after careful study of the results of this investigation, it seems very evident that family circumstances form a far more important factor. Pupils who leave school in the middle of the year usually leave on account of poor attainment and those cases are the ones that the teacher remembers and charges up the elimination to poor effort. But the large number who leave at the end of the school year fall out unnoticed. They leave at a time of transfer from one class-room to another and are forgotten before the summer vacation has passed. It seems quite possible that a study of cases as related to time of elimination might show that those who leave in June usually leave on account of family circumstances, while those who leave during the year usually leave on account of poor effort.

The outstanding facts from the preceding studies may be summarized as follows:

(1) The entering population of the High School of Commerce in comparison with the occupational population of the city has shown a large proportion of sons of manual workers and federal and city employees and a small pro-

portion of the children of business and professional men.

(2) Elimination age is at about sixteen years. The greatest number of the sons of unskilled laborers are eliminated at 14 years, but the average is still nearly 16 years. There is six months difference in the average age of elimination of the sons of manual workers and business and professional men.

(3) Only 12 percent of sons of unskilled laborers and only 7 percent of those having no father remained after 18 years of age.

(4) The occupation generally understood to be poorly paid show a smaller proportion of children failing in two or more subjects at the time of leaving school.

(5) The children of professional men, owners and executives and clerical city employees seem to be more lawless and less amenable to discipline.

(6) The percent eliminated is highest in the group of manual workers.

(7) The percent graduated is highest in the federal and city employees.

(8) The percent transferred to other high schools is highest in the professional group.

(9) The present make-up of the school shows a large representation of the children of manual workers and federal and city employees.

(10) On the basis of these studies, the group of police, firemen and postal clerks rank first, and

the retired and no father groups ranks last.

There are two important questions that are suggested by this study. The first relates to the large number of transfers in the group of clerks, salesmen, and bookkeepers. Those transfers may be due to desire to prepare for college, a general roving or unstable character, failure in studies and a desire to try a new place, or conviction on the part of the parent that the school is not giving the necessary training. This last reason is the only one with which we need to concern ourselves, for it seems that commercial employees would know something of the training which their sons need in order to enter a life of commerce.

The second important question that confronts us is this,- knowing that so large a percentage is likely to leave school early in their high school career, is the course of studies so arranged as to give them the best preparation for life if they do thus leave before reaching the finishing work of the later years.

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